

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-01
CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 MMO-01
AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 /137 W
-----062206Z 030946 /70

R 052357Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3468
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1394

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US
SUBJECT: UN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCENA

REFS: A. USUN 1139
B. STATE 89729
C. USUN 1196 (NOTAL)

1. UNGA PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE, IN HIS CAPACITY AS
CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN,
RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR LEONARD ON MAY 5 THE QUESTION OF
US RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE'S RECENT INVITATION (REF A).
AMERASINGHE EMPHASIZED THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS DISTRESSED
THAT NEITHER THE US NOR THE USSR HAD BEEN WILLING SO
FAR TO APPEAR BEFORE IT. THE COMMITTEE, HE NOTED, WAS
NOT TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH EITHER FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION
OR FREEDOM OF MARINE RESEARCH IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. IT
WAS INTERESTED, HOWEVER, IN HAVING THE ASSESSMENT OF
THE TWO MAJOR POWERS AS TO WHETHER ITS OVERALL APPROACH
IS REALISTIC. AMERASINGHE SAID THAT AT THIS STAGE, A
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GESTURE FROM THE US INDICATING WILLINGNESS TO COME TO
ITS SEPTEMBER 19-23 SESSION WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

2. AMERASINGHE NOTED THAT HE HAD RAISED THIS MATTER
WITH THE SOVIETS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW.
THE SOVIETS HAD OBJECTED TO COOPERATING WITH THE
AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT HAD PUT THEM

ON A PAR WITH THE US IN REFERRING TO "GREAT POWER RIVALRY" IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. AMERASINGHE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE COMMITTEE TO HAVE THE VIEWS OF BOTH SUPERPOWERS. A FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM THE US COULD BE USED TO ENCOURAGE SOVIET COOPERATION.

3. AMBASSADOR LEONARD INFORMED AMERASINGHE THAT OUR POLICY RE THE INDIAN OCEAN ISSUE WAS PRESENTLY UNDER REVIEW AND NOTED THAT THE US AND THE USSR HAVE AGREED TO ESTABLISH A JOINT WORKING GROUP ON THIS SUBJECT. IN VIEW OF THESE ON-GOING DEVELOPMENTS, WE ARE NOT YET IN A POSITION TO DECIDE ON THE NATURE OF OUR RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE.

4. COMMENT: AMERASINGHE'S APPROACH TO LEONARD UNDERSCORES ONCE AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE WHICH SRI LANKA AND OTHER ATTRIBUTE TO OUR STANCE TOWARD THE AD HOC COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS THEIR WILLINGNESS TO WORK OUT A FRAMEWORK FOR "COOPERATION" THAT WOULD NOT PRIJUDICE THE POSITIONS OF THE US AND OTHERS THAT HAVE NOT ACCEPTED THE "PEACE ZONE" APPRAOCH. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT A FLAT REBUFF TO THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE INADVISABLE AND HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE AMERASINGHE'S VIEW INTO ACCOUT IN DEVELOPING RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE'S INVITATION. END COMMENT.
LEONARD

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